

DDA Registry

File *Security*

DDA 76-0068

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Counsel to the Director

SUBJECT : Comments on Matheny Note

REFERENCE : Note to [REDACTED] fr John Matheny
dtd 8 Jan 76 re draft letter
concerning disclosures (ER 76-6048)

1. While subscribing to the concerns which give rise to the proposed letter, the DDA recommends against it.

2. It can do little more than to antagonize the addressees, and we doubt if it will enlist their support in refraining from any such publications that they desire. We would propose a more political and less visible move to accomplish the same end, i.e., maybe by word of mouth, or pressure from their minority colleagues.

(s) Jack B.
John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - SC/DCI

- ~~1~~ - DDA Subject w/ref (DDA 76-0067)
- 1 - DDA Chrono
- 1 - JFB Chrono
- 1 - JNM Chrono

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: Morning Meeting Participants		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: The attached was received from the White House this morning. Please submit your comments by COB, 8 January.		
FROM: SC/DCI		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Executive Registry
76-0048

8 Jan, '76

Dear Mitch,

Attached is my draft letter from Buchan to Pike and Church expressing our concern re disclosures and asking that greater consideration be given to the inherent dangers involved when drafting their final reports.

Mike Duval has pulled this option from the decision package in keeping with the discussion at yesterday's morning's meeting.

I am a copy of our original report to Duval as well as if you're interested.

Cheers,

John Maloney

76-0067 STATINTL

JAN 8 9 57 AM '76

LDB

STATINTL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to you and to Senator Church on behalf of the President to express his concern over recent disclosures by both the House and Senate Select Committees investigating US foreign intelligence activities. During the course of these investigations there have been several unauthorized disclosures of classified information, the most recent of which involved draft House Select Committee reports on US covert operations. The Senate Select Committee has also acted unwisely in publishing detailed reports on US clandestine activities abroad replete with names and details clearly in excess of those required to make their point.

The President has asked me to emphasize to you that such actions cannot continue if this Administration is to retain any semblance of control over the conduct of the nation's foreign policy. As but one example, we have received word that, subsequent to the publication of one of the Senate reports, the leader of those very factions that might have provided a democratic alternative to the subject country's military regime has been politically destroyed, and personally tainted by publication of the fact of his involvement with the CIA. I need not remind the Senate Select Committee that the President's appeal to refrain from publishing such a report of this nature, much less the names and details of the participants, went virtually unheeded. There is a possibility that, were current drafts of House Select Committee reports on US covert activities abroad published, similar events could occur which would have an even greater effect on future US foreign policy options.

In light of recent events, it is also not unreasonable to assume that further disclosures about clandestine US activities abroad, whether through leaks to the press or from unilateral Committee decisions to publish classified data, could have untold consequences

- 2 -

for the safety of our Embassy personnel overseas and for our capability to solicit cooperation from foreign sources in the future -- cooperation which is vital to the continued flow of reliable foreign intelligence.

It is the firm hope of this Administration that it can continue to work with each Select Committee to find ways to improve the performance of our Intelligence Community. You can be assured that appropriate agencies of the Executive Branch stand ready to cooperate fully in offering any assistance the two Select Committees may require in completing the drafting and finalizing of their reports. The President asks only that you pause to reflect on whether or not the publication of data that by its nature cannot help but have a negative impact on US foreign relations or perhaps even endanger the safety or well being of Americans serving abroad is truly in the national interest.

As we approach the New Year, let us both, the Executive and the Congress, demonstrate to the people of this country that there is a responsible and yet effective way to carry on the business of investigating a vital component of our national security without endangering the very security this component was designed to protect.

Sincerely,

Honorable Otis G. Pike
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515